

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An information signal copy managing method
~~according to claim 6 comprising the steps of:~~

attaching identification information for identifying each piece of information
content to the same and superimposing information indicative of a start of and information
indicative of an end of a portion of said each piece of information content, said portion being
covered by copyright, onto said each piece of information content to transmit a resultant
information signal; and

identifying said each piece of information content to be copied and recorded by
said identification information for each recording apparatus and, when both of said information
indicative of the start of and said information indicative of the end of said copyrighted portion
are detected from said electronic watermark information, updating copy permitted count for said
each piece of information content,

wherein said recording apparatus manages copy count managing information by
storing the same in a memory thereof as copy history information, said copy count managing
information being for managing a copy permitted count of said each piece of information content
identified by said identification information; and

when copying said each piece of information content, references said copy history
information about said each piece of information content to be copied to control copying and,
when both of said information indicative of the start of and said information indicative of the end
of said copyrighted portion are determined from said electronic watermark information, updates

said copy history information about said each piece of information content, and

wherein said information signal is further attached with information about copy permitted count of said each piece of information content;

when recording said each piece of information content for the first time by said recording apparatus, said copy permitted count extracted from said information signal is related with said identification information of said each piece of information content to be stored in said memory of said recording apparatus as said copy history information; and

when both of said information indicative of the start of and said information indicative of the end of said copyrighted portion are determined from said electronic watermark information, said copy permitted count in said memory is decremented by one for the copied and recorded each piece of information content.

8. (Original) The information signal copy managing method according to claim 7, wherein the information about said copy permitted count is also superimposed on said each piece of information content of said information signal as electronic watermark information

Claims 9-24 (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An information signal recording apparatus ~~according to claim 24~~ for copying and recording an information signal in which identification information for identifying each piece of information content is attached to the same and information indicative of a start of and information indicative of an end of a portion of said each piece of information content, said portion being covered by copyright, are superimposed on said

each piece of information content as electronic watermark information, said information signal recording apparatus comprising:

an identification information detecting means for detecting said identification information from said each piece of information content to be copied and recorded;

a memory for storing and managing, as copy history information, copy count managing information for managing copy permitted count for said each piece of information content identified by said identification information detected by said identification information detecting means;

a copy control means for executing copying and recording control on the basis of said copy history information stored in said memory about said each piece of information content identified by said identification information detected by said identification information detecting means when copying and recording said each piece of information content;

an electronic watermark information detecting means for detecting said electronic watermark information from said each piece of information content to be copied and recorded;
and

a copy history updating means for updating said copy history information about said each piece of information content when both of said information indicative of the start of and said information indicative of the end of said copyrighted portion are detected by said electronic watermark information detecting means if copying and recording are executed by said copy control means,

wherein said information signal is further attached with copy control information for said each piece of information content as electronic watermark information; and

said copy control means also executes copy control on said each piece of

information content on the basis of said copy control information detected from said information signal at copying and recording said each piece of information content, and

wherein said information signal is further attached with information about copy permitted count for said each of information content as electronic watermark information;

said information signal recording apparatus further comprising a means for recording, in said memory, said copy permitted count extracted from said information signal, in relation to said identification information for said each piece of information content, as said copy history information at recording of said each piece of information content for the first time; and

said copy history updating means decrements said copy permitted count in said memory by one for the copied and recorded each piece of information content when both of said information indicative of the start of and said information indicative of the end of said copyrighted portion are determined from said electronic watermark information.

Claims 26-31 (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An information signal copy managing method ~~according to claim 31 comprising the steps of:~~

superimposing identification information for each piece of information content as electronic watermark information onto at least an entire section of said each piece of information content, said entire section being covered by copyright and transmitting a resultant information signal;

identifying, by said identification information, for each recording apparatus, said each piece of information content to be copied and recorded and, at the same time, detecting a

change point in said identification information as a copy start position and a copy end position of said each piece of information content; and

when both of said copy start position and said copy end position are detected, updating a copy permitted count for said each piece of information content,

wherein said recording apparatus stores for management, in a memory of said recording apparatus, as copy history information, copy count managing information for managing said copy permitted count for said each piece of information content identified by said identification information; and

when copying said each piece of information content, referencing said copy history information about said each piece of information content to be copied to control copying and, when both of said copy start position and said copy end position are detected, updating said copy history information about said each piece of information content, and

wherein said information signal is further attached with information about said copy permitted count for said each piece of information content;

when said information content is recorded by said recording apparatus for the first time, said copy permitted count extracted from said information signal is recorded, as said copy history information, in said memory of said recording apparatus in relation with said identification information of said information content; and

when both of said copy start position and said copy end position are detected, said copy permitted count in said memory is decremented by one for the copied and recorded information content.

33. (Original) The information signal copy managing method according to claim

32, wherein the information about said copy permitted count is also superimposed on each piece of said information content of said information signal as electronic watermark information.

Claims 34-42 (Canceled)